

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention provides a load balancing device, computer program product, and method for balancing the load across a plurality of proxy devices arranged to perform malware scanning of files stored within a file storage device of a computer network. The computer network has a plurality of client devices arranged to issue access requests using a dedicated file access protocol to the file storage device in order to access files stored on the file storage device. The load balancing device is arranged so as to intercept access requests issued to the file storage device, and comprises a client interface for receiving an access request issued to the file storage device using the dedicated file access protocol. Further, the load balancing device comprises load balancing logic for applying a predetermined load balancing routine to determine to which proxy device to direct the received access request, and a proxy device interface for sending the access request to the proxy device determined by the load balancing logic, each proxy device being coupled to the file storage device. This enables a very efficient system to be developed for performing malware scanning of files stored within the file storage device, whilst enabling that system to be developed independently of the particular file storage device being used in the computer network, or the operating system being run on that file storage device.

10

15

20

10004120-120601